Feds paying 60% of $1M Rawsonville repave tab

By MELANIE KOFF
Press Staff Writer

SUMPTER TWP. — Officials from Wayne and Washtenaw counties told residents Wednesday the federal government will pay $600,000 of the $1 million necessary to pave a two-mile gravel stretch of Rawsonville Road bordered by Willow and Oakville-Waltz roads.

Project plans discussed during a Township Board public hearing also call for widening of drains straddling the stretch because officials said they're too narrow.

Construction will begin this summer and should conclude by next September, officials said.

The property rests on the county line between Wayne and Washtenaw. The road commissions of both counties will pick up the local share — $400,000 — although Washtenaw County will be responsible for maintaining the road.

The right-of-way for property owners at the road's subdivision, Arkona Woods, should not be affected by the construction, officials said.

Problems with dust particles and numerous potholes have persisted since 1955, officials said.

Funding and approval for the project has been in the works since 1985, said Robert Polens, managing director of the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

Each lane of the two-lane paved road will be 11 feet wide with three feet of a paved and three feet of a gravel shoulder on either side.

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Wednesday, police said 50,000 East Germans had arrived since Saturday, when the Communist government allowed them to go West via Czechoslovakia. It was the first time East Germany opened a direct channel to the West since the Communists built the Berlin Wall in 1961.

Nearly 200,000 mostly young East Germans have left their country this year, either by emigrating legally, or by fleeing through Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Poland. West Germany grants East Germans automatic citizenship and helps them start new lives.

In a dramatic appearance on national TV, author Christa Wolf read an appeal from five unofficial, pro-reform groups, including New Forum, to East Germans to stay in their homeland.

"Help us to build a real democratic society," Wolf said. "We need you ... have confidence in yourself and in us, stay here."

Services

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and staff within county guidelines.

■ Working jointly with the state Department of Social Services and the Cooperative Extension Service at Michigan State University.

■ Assuming leadership over deployment of staff and budget of all divisions.

■ Coordinating Human Services' activities.

■ Acting as a liaison between Human Services divisions and the Human Services Board.

■ Serving as an advocate for Human Services with the County Board of Commissioners.

■ Working with state and federal officials in coordination with division heads.

Qualifications established for

Feds

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The existing road is 30 feet wide while the new road will take up 34 feet before the drains are constructed.

To create a six-foot shoulder and a wider drain, 25 properties will lose 27 feet of land nearest the road.

"The new drains will be designed to prevent auto rollovers," said Steve Puuri, assistant county highway engineer of the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

The current drains will be cleaned up and new drains created on both sides of the road which will be flatter and longer, officials said.

Polens said all but two of the homes are set far enough back so wider road will not encroach upon their immediate property. The commission will look at alternative methods to construct the drain near the homes with less right-of-way property.

After being paved, the road will be an all-season road. Currently trucks are not allowed on the road although residents said trucks often pass through. Once paved, trucks will be allowed and there will be no weight limit.

The speed limit on the stretch to be paved is posted at 55 mph, officials said. When the road is paved, the Police Department will look at the traffic flow to determine if the speed limit should be changed.

Residents whose right-of-way property will be used will be compensated, but Polens said the amount has not been determined.

Polens said a resident could dedicate the 27 feet of right-away but that is unlikely.

In the case that a property owner would refuse to accept the compensation set by an assessor, the land can be taken with a court order.

Said Polens said, "The road is going to benefit you but during the construction it is going to inconvenience you."

Polens said if a property loses trees to the project the property owner will be compensated. He said driveways and culverts interrupted during construction will be returned to the original state.

members to operate the township until a special election can be scheduled.

The alcohol bans were approved in Zeeland and Hudsonville, both by more than 3-1 margins. A new state law gives cities, villages and townships with no stores with liquor licenses the right to ban sales.

ector prospects

rved on the Melvindale Board nine years. Maples owns Milan

, who has served as both build- nspector for the past year, had ut decided to stay on as build- would have time to train a pro-

worked closely with WALTEC for a number of years. When we interviewed him for this award, Jack explained, 'WALTEC staff (members) understand my needs as employer.' "

Ned Heiss, general manager of the Radisson Resort and Conference Center, 1275 Huron St., Ypsilanti, turned to WALTEC when he had to hire 300 employees quickly to open the $29 million hotel by May this year, said Porter, also executive vice-president of Dodson-McOmber Insurance Agency, Ann Arbor

"WALTEC services to the Radisson included recruitment, screening and training," she said.

She quoted Heiss as saying, "It's a good program that provides a lot of opportunities for

A goal of the plan is to seek programs to "help prevent joblessness or stop the cycle of job loss," Robinson said. The council decided it's better to spend time and money on these programs to help people before they are jobless for a long time.

The Private Industry Council oversees funding from the federal Job Training Partnership Act, legislation sponsored by Vice President Dan Quayle when he was a U.S. Senator from Indiana and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

The funding helped almost 1,800 residents of Washtenaw and Livingston counties receive on-the-job training and skills training in classrooms, learn how to find a job or enroll in alternative high school programs.